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S E C R E T

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04753

25X1 1. WE ARE ALL THE NORTH VIETNAMESE

25X1 ALLEGEDLY BEING SENT TO PARIS TO AUGMENT DRV DELEGATION AND

 MOST INTERESTING PERSON ON LIST IS,

OF COURSE, LE DUC THO, BOTH BECAUSE OF HIS PARTY RANK AND HIS

25X1 LONG RECORD OF PARTY RESPONSIBILITY FOR SVN AFFAIRS.

CONTINUED

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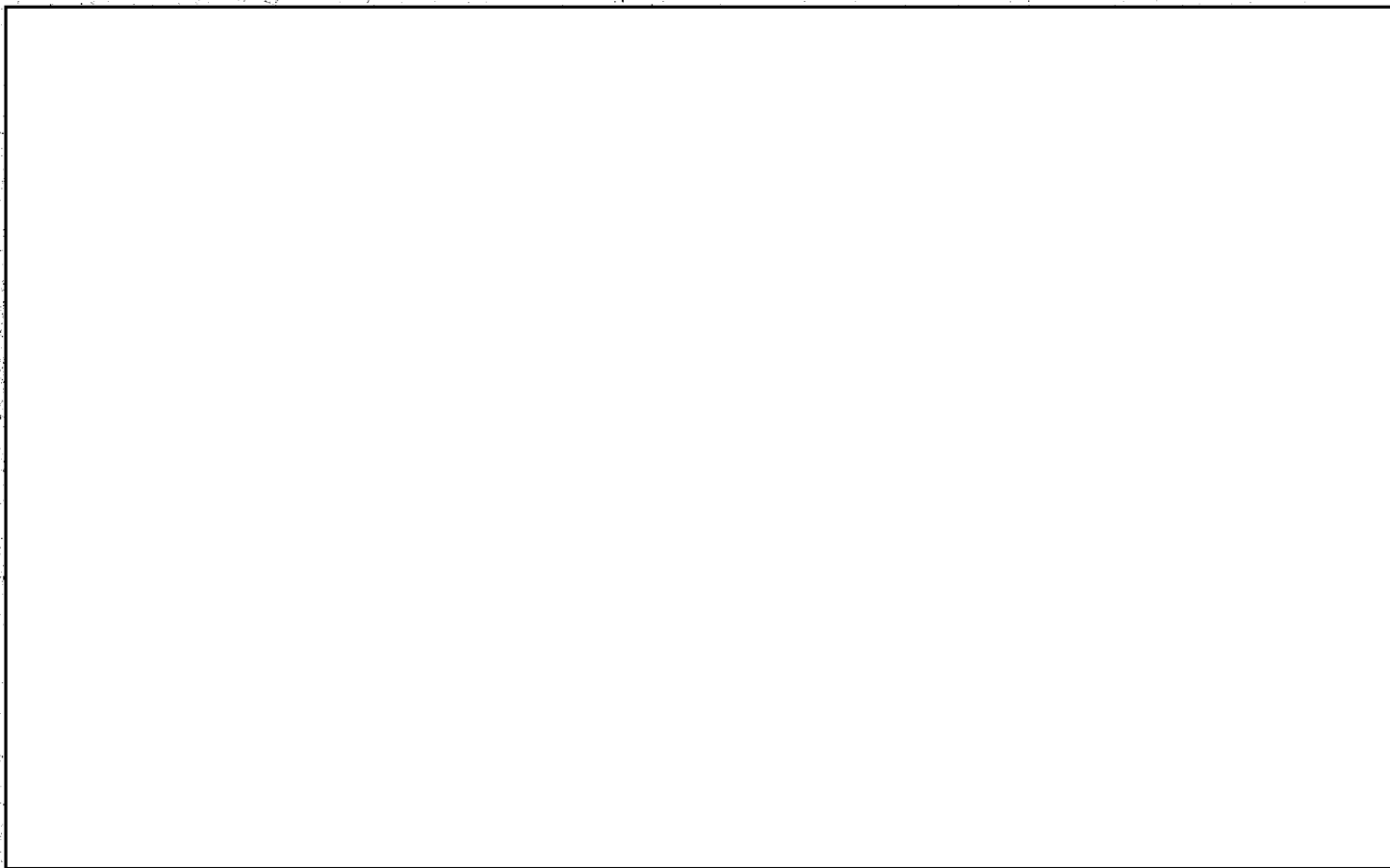
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TO

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25X1



8. THO'S DISPATCH TO PARIS IS BOTH INTERESTING AND SIGNIFICANT
IN LIGHT OF HIS BACKGROUND AND THE FACT THAT AS A POLITBURO
MEMBER (WHICH XUAN THUY IS NOT) HE DECIDEDLY OUTRANKS XUAN

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THUY IN THE PARTY HIERARCHY. THO IS ALMOST CERTAINLY BRINGING NEW INSTRUCTIONS AND, EVEN WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS, WILL HAVE GREATER DISCRETIONARY LATITUDE THAN XUAN THUY COULD HAVE. BY NO ACCIDENT, THO'S ARRIVAL WILL BE READ IN SOUTH VIETNAM AS A CLEAR SIGN OF AN IMMINENT MOVE TO THE DISCUSSION OF SOUTHERN POLITICAL MATTERS. FOR NON-COMMUNIST VIETNAMESE, BOTH IN AND OUT OF THE GVN, THIS IS OF COURSE THE MOST DELICATE OF ALL SUBJECTS AND THE ONE THEY WANT LEAST TO SEE TAKEN UP IN A BILATERAL US/DRV FORUM. THO'S DISPATCH, PLUS OTHER SIGNS, SUGGEST THAT HANOI MAY BE ON THE VERGE OF ATTEMPTING TO FINESSE THE BOMBING ISSUE AND MOVE TO QUESTIONS THAT WILL EXACERBATE SOUTH VIETNAMESE CONCERNS AND SUSPICIONS -- AND HENCE POLITICAL TENSIONS -- AT XXX A TIME WHEN THE GVN POLITICAL POT IS ALREADY SIMMERING WITH URBAN ATTACKS, A NEW CABINET, AND THE CONTINUED THIEU - KY RIVALRY.

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8. A FINAL POINT, THO IS A SPECIALIST IN PROPAGANDA, POLITICAL ACTION AND FRONT AFFAIRS. MANY OF THE VIETNAMESE EMIGRES IN FRANCE ARE PERSONS HE HAS WORKED WITH OR AGAINST FOR MANY YEARS AND HENCE KNOWS WELL. HE ALSO KNOWS AND IS WELL KNOWN TO FRENCH OFFICIALS VERSED IN VIETNAMESE AFFAIRS. THO ALMOST CERTAINLY PLANS TO FISH IN THESE ~~WATERS~~ WATERS WITH THE BEST BAIT HE CAN DEVISE AND WITH CASTING SKILL DEVELOPED THROUGH YEARS OF EXPERIENCE.

END OF MESSAGE

OCI - in draft)

*Requested comments on the significance of the inclusion of Le Duc Tho among the nine new North Vietnamese delegates being sent to Paris.

George A. Carver, Jr.
SAVA

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